



Serra Preschool Newsletter - January 2016

a cooperative preschool in South Orange County where children and
parents learn and love together



San Clemente, California

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Kids Birthdays

Ella Fors turned 4 on 1/14
Coralyn Gales turned 5 on 1/14
Zayne Pillow turns 5 on 2/9
Silas Wheeler turns 4 on 3/5
Logan Powell turns 5 on 3/7
Kaitlin Christa turns 4 on 3/17
Asher Reece turns 4 on 3/29

Upcoming Events

Thurs, Jan 28th – Fire Station #59 Tour (Field Trip). No classes this day!
Sat, Jan 30th – 6-Week Clean-up (Postponed from January 9th)
Thurs, Feb 4th – 12:00pm to 1:30pm - OPEN HOUSE. Early dismissal of 2-day class at 11am.
Wed, Feb 10th – 12:00pm - Valentine's Celebration (3-day Class)
Thurs, Feb 11th – 11:45am – Valentine's Celebration (2-day Class)
Fri, Feb 12th – No School (Lincoln's Birthday)
Mon, Feb 15th – No School (Washington's Birthday)
Wed, Feb 17th – 12:30pm - Board Meeting
Wed, Feb 17th – Open House for Parents Only – 6:30pm to 7:30pm
Fri, Feb 19th – Whale/Dolphin Watching Field Trip (No Classes this day)
Thurs, Feb 26th – Registration Deadline for Current and Alumni Families
Sat, Feb 27th – 6-Week Clean-up
Sat, Feb 27th – Family Movie Night (Weather permitting)
Fri, Mar 4th – Open Registration Begins for New Families
Sun, Mar 13th – Trike-A-Thon
Wed, Mar 23rd – General Meeting

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS OVERVIEW

FIRE STATION #59 (TALEGA) FIELD TRIP

When: Thursday, January 28th from 9:30am to 11:00am.

What: Andy Bailey (Ryley Bailey's Dad) is a firefighter at this station and he has graciously offered to give the kids a tour of the station. The kids will be able to climb in the fire truck, squirt water out of the fire hose, try on fireman outfit/ gear, and learn about fire safety and more. Bring your camera, as there will be many cute photo opportunities.

Cost: Free!

Bring: A snack for after the tour.

Directions: 59 Avenida La Pata, San Clemente (on the corner of La Pata and Avenida Vista Hermosa)

Sign-Up: mail nrklbailey@gmail.com

WHALE/DOLPHIN WATCHING FIELD TRIP

When: Friday February 19th at 12:00pm

Where: Dana Wharf Whale Watching, 34675 Golden Lantern, Dana Point, CA 92629

Cost: \$14 per person

Sign-Up: mail nrklbailey@gmail.com

Director's Message

~Oldies but Goodies~ Endangered Activities

"The Farmer in the Dell", "London Bridges", "Mother May I", "Ring Around the Rosie", and so many other games/songs are part of what I refer to as our "early childhood heritage". If children do not experience these things in preschool or kindergarten then they probably never will.

I think children can experience so many things about the game of life through these "Oldie but Goodies". Three leading educational theorists give insight into why games are so powerful in early childhood.

1. Piaget observed that the more actively involved children are with people and things in their world, the more quickly they will assimilate learning. Kids at Serra are very much involved with lots of people and things to manipulate, play and create with.
2. Dewey emphasized that educational experiences are intricately interwoven with social experiences. Almost everything the kids do at school is a social experience.
3. Lastly, Vygotsky stressed the importance of social interaction to the child's ability to construct meaning.

Playing games like " The Farmer in the Dell " can help:

- Build community and strengthen relationships.
- Foster self-confidence.
- Enhance oral language.
- Develops listening skills.
- Fosters cooperation.
- Reinforce self-regulation and the executive function.

The kids like playing games at school. We have a blue binder on the shelf by the door leading out to the yard. It is filled with ideas for outdoor group games. I encourage you to take a peek and play one of the games with the kids when you are an outdoor parent at school. The list is not complete so feel free to add a game of your own.

Director's Message – Continued

~Oldies but Goodies~ Endangered Activities

Here is an idea for a game to get you started.

How to play, "Please Mr. Crocodile, May We Cross the River?"

1. All of the players (except one who is chosen as " the Crocodile ") stand side-by-side at one side of the yard, facing the other side. Mr. Crocodile stands in the middle of the yard.
2. The players chant, "Please Mr. Crocodile may we cross the river?" If not, why not? The Crocodile has to pick a criteria, like a color.
3. The Crocodile then has to call out a color and all the kids wearing that color are safe to cross. Once the kids who are safe to cross are safely across the river everyone else runs across the river to the other side. Whoever is caught becomes the next " Mr. Crocodile".

Other fun games might be:

- Hide and go seek.
- Freeze Tag
- Red light green light
- Duck duck goose.

Let's play and have a lot of fun at the same time. If you are not sure how to get started, just ask and I will point you in the right direction.

Mrs. Nowicki

5 Little Snowmen Fat Poem

5 little snowmen fat, each with a funny hat, out came the sun and melted one, what a sad, sad thing is that.

4 little snowmen fat, each with a funny hat, out came the sun and melted one, what a sad, sad thing is that.

3 little snowmen fat, each with a funny hat, out came the sun and melted one, what a sad, sad thing is that.

2 little snowmen fat, each with a funny hat, out came the sun and melted one, what a sad, sad thing is that.

1 little snowman fat, each with a funny hat, out came the sun and melted one, what a sad, sad thing is that.

A Message from our President, Cindy Parker

Coming into the New Year we have all these expectations and resolutions we set. I think back to having everyone home for the holidays: nothing to rush to, no schedule, and yet you still seem overbooked and overscheduled. Everyone has to go to every holiday party, cookie decorating, school play, or grandma's house because its Christmas and its New Year's and we have to do something, right? At least I had many plans set and then we got hit with the stomach flu. I know many of us went through it, but now thinking of it, it was probably the best way to spend New Years. Sick time is my time to shine.

I'm not always the best cook; I mean you're not going to starve. And I don't always have the energy to build the best Lego castles or be the best combat fighter. But I can hold a kids hair back like a boss. I can coo and cluck and rub tiny little backs. I can say, "Oh buddy. That's right — get it all out. Mama's here, honey." When they're sick — they want me. They want me the most. They need me. And they need me to just BE. To just hold them and not leave them. And I do it. I show up and stay close and I DO it. And I just feel grateful looking back. . I just feel so incredibly useful and grateful that someone needs me so much, and that I am capable of providing exactly what he needs. I know these times are fleeting. Pretty soon no one will even want me to walk them to class. But what's better than: "This is awful. I know it hurts — and I can't take it from you. But I'll stay right here and hold you until its better."

That's all we can do for each other, right? For anybody? That's everything. That's love. You know what's weird? I don't remember much about how many times my mom played with me or how many times she snapped at me — but I remember my mom holding my hair back when I was sick. I REMEMBER that.

Anyway, I just looked at my jacked up family all laid out for our first day of 2016 and I thought: Sweet Jesus. This is perfection.

I don't want a new, better life in 2016. I just want new eyes to see that my life is already beautiful... hard and not very glamorous... but beautiful.

I don't want to be a better mom in 2016. I just want new eyes to see that the miracle is not good, better, or best — the miracle is that these people are mine and I am theirs.

DON'T TRY TO BE BETTER. JUST NOTICE THAT IT'S ALL-GOOD ENOUGH ALREADY.

XO

Cindy

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¼ Page Ad: \$10 per issue or \$50 for the year

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